

10/511676

DTOS Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 OCT 2004

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JUN 21 2004

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Ihr Zeichen/Your ref.:	Unser Zeichen/Our file:	Bearbeiter:	Datum/Date:
	P26038	@Kn	25.05.2004


International Patent Application PCT/IB03/01243
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With Reference to the Telephonic Interview on May 25, 2004

Enclosed is set of amended claims with the request to issue a positive IPER on the basis of these claims together with the original description and the drawings filed with the letter of April 29, 2004. In case independent claims 1,17-19 should not fulfil the conciseness requirement, it is respectfully requested to carry out examination only on the basis of claims 1-16.

The amended claims differ from the former claims (filed with letter of May 19, 2004) only in that new claim 1 has been worded in one-part form.

Accordingly, with regard to the original disclosure and the argumentation for inventive step it is referred to the said letter of May 19, 2004.


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Enclosures:
 Set of amended claims, 3-fold

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Claims

1. A folding bicycle comprising

(A) a frame (1) which has a top tube, a head tube, a down tube (2), and a seat tube,

(B) a foldable front-wheel assembly which has a front wheel fork (4) rotatably attached to the frame (1), and a front wheel (3) mounted to the front wheel fork (4), and

(C) a rear-wheel assembly which has chainstays (26) and a rear wheel (18) mounted to the chainstays (26),

wherein

(D) the down tube (2) is made of two tubes having a gap (2') therebetween, and wherein

the front-wheel assembly is foldable by rotating the front wheel fork (4) by 180 degrees and folding it toward the down tube (2) to thereby partially insert the front wheel (3) into the said gap (2').

2. The folding bicycle according to claim 1, characterized in that the rear-wheel assembly is foldable in that the chainstays (26) together with the rear wheel (18) can be folded around a pivot (19).

3. The folding bicycle according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a handlebar foldable towards the frame.

4. The folding bicycle of claim 1, characterized in that the pivot (19) has a shaft (22) connected to two coaxial sprockets (23, 24), wherein front and rear chains (25, 31) are provided connecting a chain ring (15) provided on the frame (1) and a rear sprocket (32), respectively, with the two coaxial sprockets (23, 24).

5. The folding bicycle according to claim 4, characterized by comprising a bracket (20) which extends from the frame (1) towards the rear wheel (18) and which holds the shaft (22).

6. The folding bicycle of one of claims 1, characterized in that the front wheel fork (4) is equipped with two swing-arms (7) which hold the front wheel (3), and one end part of which is pivotably coupled to the front wheel fork (4) and the other end part of which is coupled to a stirrup (8) which in turn is connected to the front wheel fork (4) and which encloses a portion of the front wheel (3).

7. The folding bicycle of claim 6, characterized by further comprising springs (14) arranged between the swing arms (17) and the front wheel fork (4).

8. The folding bicycle of claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the other end parts of the swing arms (7) comprise shock absorbers (14').

9. The folding bicycle of claim 8, characterized in that the shock absorbers (14') are of the elastomer, the hydraulic or the pneumatic type.

10. The folding bicycle of claim 1, characterized in that the chainstays (26) comprise a locking device.

11. The folding bicycle of claim 10, characterized in that the locking device comprises a pin.

12. The folding bicycle of claim 10 or 11, characterized in that the chainstays (6) comprise a shock absorber and/or a spring.

13. The folding bicycle of one of claims 1 to 12, characterized by further comprising an electric motor or an internal combustion motor.

14. The folding bicycle of one of claims 1 to 13, characterized by further comprising a second seat support (38) attached to the frame (1) and located behind a seat attached to the frame (1).

15. The folding bicycle of one of claims 1 to 14, characterized by further comprising cranks (16) equipped with folding pedals (11).

16. The folding bicycle of claim 2, characterized by further comprising seatstays (28) which connect the chainstays (26) to the frame (1) and which are releasably connected to a strut (29) extending from the frame (1).

17. A folding bicycle comprising

(A) a non-foldable, rigid frame (1) composed of a top tube, head tube, down tube(s) (2), and seat tube,

(B) a front-wheel assembly that rotates and folds such that, when in a folded position, the front wheel (3) may be inserted in a gap (2') between two (2) down tubes, and

(c) a handlebar (34) that can rotate backward and downward toward the frame.

18. A folding bicycle comprising

(A) a non-foldable, rigid frame (1) composed of a top tube, head tube, down tube(s) (2), and seat tube, and

(B) a front-wheel assembly that rotates and folds such that, when in a folded position, the front wheel (3) may be inserted in a gap (2') between two (2) down tubes.

19. A folding bicycle comprising

(A) a non-foldable, rigid frame (1) composed of a top tube, head tube, down tube(s) (2), and seat tube, and

(B) a front-wheel assembly that rotates and folds.